

A Systemic Functional Linguistic Approach to Ecological Discourse

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Abstract: This article comprehensively explores the function of ecological discourse in the language system from the perspective of systemic functional linguistics. This paper first introduces the significance of ecological discourse, and then starting from the three angles of pragmatics, semantics and phonetics, it points out that the use of ecological discourse can promote people's attention and recognition of environmental protection and contribute to the realization of sustainable progress.

1. Introduction

Ecological discourse refers to the language form that expresses people's awareness and actions towards environmental protection, including concerns and appeals for natural environment, ecological balance, sustainable progress, etc. It is a language form with social responsibility and historical mission. It not only reflects people's understanding and attention to the ecological environment, but also promotes people's actions and practices towards environmental protection. With the increasingly serious environmental problems, ecological discourse, as a language form to express people's awareness and actions towards environmental protection, is receiving more and more attention. Therefore, a comprehensive exploration of the systemic functional linguistics of ecological discourse is a required measure to construct a sustainable language environment at this stage.

2. Importance of Ecological Discourse

Ecological discourse holds high importance in today's society, playing a key role in promoting environmental protection and sustainable progress. Firstly, ecological discourse helps to enhance people's understanding and awareness of the natural environment. Through language expression and transmission, ecological discourse can convey knowledge about biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and environmental issues, and can convey the importance and impact of environmental protection to the public, arousing people's attention and reflection on environmental issues. Ecological discourse can help people understand the fragility of ecosystems and the impact of human activities on them, thereby inspiring people to take positive actions to protect the environment ^[1]. Secondly, ecological discourse plays an essential role in shaping people's values and behavioral patterns. Language is a key medium for the transmission of values and cultural concepts. Ecological discourse can stimulate people's emotional resonance, shape values, and stimulate a sense of responsibility, promote people to take environmentally friendly actions, help people understand the interdependence between humans and nature, establish the concept of respecting nature and protecting the environment, and integrate it into their own lives and decision-making. In addition, ecological discourse plays a critical role in building cooperation and consensus. Protecting the environment requires the joint efforts and collaboration of all members of society. Ecological discourse can serve as a bridge for interdisciplinary communication, promoting dialogue and cooperation among different stakeholders. Through ecological discourse, people can share knowledge and experience, negotiate to solve environmental problems, and formulate common goals and action plans, which helps to form a broad consensus on environmental protection, promote joint efforts of all parties, and achieve the goal of sustainable progress. Finally,

ecological discourse is of great significance in stimulating innovation and promoting scientific research. Using ecological discourse, people can share new perspectives, technologies, and practices on environmental protection and sustainable progress, promote scientific research and innovation exchanges, stimulate exploration of new ideas and methods to solve environmental problems, provide impetus and direction for research in environmental science, ecology, and sustainable progress, and promote in-depth research and attention on environmental issues in academia and society, so as to stimulate the interest and enthusiasm of scientists and researchers, encourage them to conduct more research on ecosystems, climate change, environmental protection, and provide scientific support and innovative solutions to solve environmental problems ^[2].

3. Function of Ecological Discourse in Systemic Functional Linguistics

3.1 Function of Ecological Discourse in Pragmatics: Taking *Sea Wolf* as an Example

In pragmatics, ecological discourse conveys people's concern for the environment and ecosystem. As a novel with marine ecology as the background, *Sea Wolf* shows obvious functions at the pragmatic level through its ecological discourse, which conveys information about the environment and ecosystem, arouses readers' emotional resonance, and stimulates readers' awareness of action and participation. The novel conveys knowledge and observations about marine ecology to readers by depicting the details and interactions of marine ecosystems. The author vividly describes the diversity of marine organisms, the importance of ecological balance, and the damage of marine pollution to ecosystems. These ecological discourses use the power of language to deepen readers' recognition of marine ecology and arouse their attention to environmental issues ^[3]. For instance, "the fragile coral reef ecosystem is the home of a variety of marine organisms, and its preservation is crucial to the sustainability of our oceans." At the same time, by describing the beauty and vulnerability of natural landscape and organisms, ecological discourse arouses readers' resonance and concern at the emotional level. The ecological discourse in *Sea Wolf* carries an emotional tone, expressing love for nature, anger at environmental destruction, and concern about the extinction of organisms. These emotional resonances have stimulated readers' enthusiasm for participation and sparked positive attitudes and actions towards environmental protection. For instance, the deep connection between the protagonist and the ocean, as well as his admiration for the beauty and harmony of the ocean, strongly remind us of our responsibility to protect and respect our natural environment. In addition, the novel calls on readers to take action to protect the environment by describing the consequences of environmental problems and ecological destruction. Ecological discourse stimulates readers' sense of responsibility and action by alerting them to the severity and urgency of environmental crises, encouraging them to participate in environmental protection organizations, support sustainable progress projects, and change their own lifestyles, thereby reducing negative impacts on the environment. For example, by vividly describing the lush mangrove forests, the importance of protecting these unique habitats and maintaining coastal biodiversity and mitigating the impacts of climate change was emphasized ^[4].

3.2 Function of Ecological Discourse in Semantics: Taking *Return to Nature (Part One)* as an Example

In semantics, ecological discourse is constructed and expressed through semantics. Taking *Return to Nature (Part One)* as an example, its ecological discourse demonstrates obvious functions at the semantic level. By constructing and selecting semantics, it plays a role in shaping meaning, expressing emotions, and conveying value in the work. By depicting the details and scenes of pastoral life, the work conveys the author's understanding and experience of the natural environment. Through ecological discourse, the work expresses praise for nature, perception of natural landscape and pursuit of ecological balance. These discourses, through semantic construction and selection, enable readers to have a deeper understanding of the natural elements and ecosystems in rural life. For instance, the air is filled with melodious bird songs, a symphony of natural music that praises the thriving biodiversity of rural areas. By describing the beauty,

tranquility, and harmony of nature, ecological discourse resonates and experiences readers emotionally ^[5]. The ecological discourse in *Return to Nature (Part One)* contains a feeling of being close to nature, expressing love for nature, reverence for the ecological environment, and longing for natural harmony. These emotional resonances stimulate readers' emotional experience of natural beauty, enhancing their concern and appreciation for the natural environment. For instance, this clear stream winds through the grassland, full of life, and is the lifeline of the surrounding ecosystem. Fertile soil produces abundant crops, which is the result of sustainable farming practices and a profound understanding of the significance of cultivating land. In addition, through the meaning and choices expressed in ecological discourse, the work conveys to readers a value system about ecological protection and sustainable progress, emphasizing the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, the rational use of natural resources, and the maintenance of ecological balance. Ecological discourse, through semantic transmission, guides readers to reflect on their own behavior and values, promotes readers' awareness of the significance of the natural environment, and thus stimulates positive environmental action. For instance, this quiet pond provides a refuge for various aquatic species, which reminds people of the delicate balance required to maintain a healthy aquatic ecosystem ^[6].

3.3 Function of Ecological Discourse in Phonetics: Taking Walden Lake as an Example

In phonetics, ecological discourse has a unique function. Taking *Walden Lake* as an example, it conveys the voice, emotion and meaning of the natural environment through the characteristics and expression of voice. Ecological discourse is transmitted and presented through speech in the work, arousing readers' attention and appreciation for the natural environment, and inspiring positive attitudes and actions towards ecological protection. Through these functions, ecological discourse plays a role in enhancing the authenticity and immersion of sound in the work, enabling readers to experience the beauty of the natural environment more deeply. By describing the environment and natural landscape of Walden Lake, the work conveys the author's feelings for the beauty of nature and his emphasis on the environment. In phonetics, ecological discourse is presented through the characteristics and expressions of sound, such as the ripple sound describing the lake water, the rustling sound of wind blowing leaves, and the cheerful sound of birds singing. These sounds are transmitted through speech, allowing readers to experience natural sounds firsthand, enhancing their understanding and emotional experience of the natural environment. The chorus of chirping birds and buzzing insects fills the air, interweaving different calls and melodies to form a symphony of harmonious sounds in nature. Meanwhile, through the expression of sound and the timbre of sound, ecological discourse can evoke resonance and emotional experience for readers at the emotional level ^[7]. The sound presented by the ecological discourse in *Walden Lake* often has a sense of tranquility, harmony and pleasant, which expresses the author's love of nature and yearning for tranquility and freedom. These emotional resonances stimulate readers' emotional experience of natural beauty, enhancing their concern and appreciation for the natural environment. For example, the call of a distant diver echoes on a foggy morning, and its haunting call symbolizes the untamed spirit of the lake and its inhabitants. In addition, ecological discourse conveys the meaning and observation of the natural environment through the expression of sound, changes in tone, and rhythm of speech. By describing the sounds of birds, water, and insects in the forest, the work conveys the vitality of nature, the significance of ecological balance, and the harmonious relationship between humans and nature. These sounds enable readers to perceive the beauty and complexity of nature through the characteristics and expression of speech, triggering thinking and action on ecological protection. For example, the soft sound of raindrops on the leaves creates a gentle percussion, a natural orchestra celebrating the nourishment of water circulation to life ^[8].

4. Conclusion

This article explores the function of ecological discourse in the language system, delving into the inherent significance and value of ecological discourse, and making contributions to promoting people's attention and recognition of environmental protection and achieving sustainable progress.

Ecological discourse is of great importance in contemporary contexts, as it can not only enhance people's understanding and awareness of the environment, shape their values and behavioral patterns, promote cooperation and consensus formation, but also promote the progress of scientific research and innovation. Through the dissemination and application of ecological discourse, we can work together to protect the environment, achieve sustainable progress, and create a better ecological environment for future generations.

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